



May 5, 2011
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Erie County Reapportionment Committee
Robert M. Graber, Clerk
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Possible Erie County Redistricting Map

Enclosed is a proposal showing suggested boundaries for creating eleven Erie County Legislative Districts.

Since I did not have detailed 2010 Census tract data, my draft needs refinement. I realize that there are a number of possibilities.

I hope that my submittal is helpful to the committee's work.

Sincerely,

James E. Rozanski

Erie County 2010 Reapportionment Details and Narrative

Erie County Population 2010 – 919,040

Erie County Population 2000 – 950,265

-31,225

Create 11 Legislative Districts with population of approximately 83,549 each.

The municipalities included in each district and the corresponding municipal populations:

DISTRICT 1

LACKAWANNA 18,141

W. SENECA 44,711

ELMA 11,317

MARILLA 5,327

Total 79,496

(Add portion of south Buffalo or Cheektowaga for adjustment to increase population)

DISTRICT 2

AURORA 13,782

ORCHARD PK 29,054

BOSTON 8,023

SARDINIA 2,775

WALES 3,005

HOLLAND 3,401

COLDEN 3,265

COLLINS 6,601

CONCORD 8,494

N. COLLINS 3,523

Total 81,923

DISTRICT 3

HAMBURG 56,936

EVANS 16,356

EDEN 7,688

BRANT 2,065

CATT RES 1,833

Total 84,878

Note Evans and Eden lost population.

DISTRICT 4

CLARENCE 30,673

ALDEN 10,865

LANCASTER 41,604

NEWSTEAD 8,594

Total 91,736

Adjust to approximately 83,500

Move west part of Clarence to District 5 for adjustment. Note that population trend shows this region increasing.

DISTRICT 5

AMHERST EAST (partial)

CLARENCE WEST (partial)

Total approx. 83,500

Most of these people associate themselves with the East Amherst zip code.

DISTRICT 6

CHEEKTOWAGA 88,226

Note Cheektowaga population declining.

DISTRICT 7

BUFFALO (South) 87,103

DISTRICT 8

BUFFALO (Central) 87,103

DISTRICT 9

BUFFALO (North) 87,103

DISTRICT 10

GRAND IS 20,374

C-TON 15,130

T-TON 73,567

Total 109,071

Adjust to approximately 83,500

Move east portion of Town of Tonawanda to District 11.

Grand Island and Tonawanda (City and Town) share common interests and should be together.

DISTRICT 11

AMHERST WEST

TONAWANDA TOWN EAST

Total approx. 83,500

This would be district bordering Niagara Falls Boulevard (Rt 62).

Narrative:

I simply used a county municipality map and 2010 city and town census population data to outline eleven Erie County legislative Districts. Unfortunately, I was not able to obtain 2010 census tract data to be able to refine my suggested boundaries. That should be fairly easy to do once census tract data is available. My suggested boundaries are flexible, depending on more precise population data.

I tried to keep districts compact as possible. Thus communities with common interests and concerns are unified to some extent. I was not concerned with political affiliations.

District 1 – Lackawanna was created from West Seneca. So there is sort of an historical perspective. There are bonds between residents of both communities. People have migrated outward.

I suggest that Buffalo be divided into three districts, North, South, and Central. Each district would stretch from the Lake Erie or Niagara River waterfront to the City's eastern boundary. My reasoning in part is because Main Street tends to create a mental segregation barrier. By creating districts that encompass both sides of Main Street, this barrier is lessened even eliminated. Each district would also include diverse racial, social, and economic demographics. Each legislator would also represent a portion of the region's waterfront, probably our most important asset.

I believe that citizens have better representation if legislators represent a diverse constituency. It also opens up the electoral process. This region will only prosper if we operate as a whole rather than parts

I apologize that I did not adhere to the committee's guidelines. Without detailed census tract data, requested information such as deviations, etc. would not be accurate or useful.

Buffalo, Town of Tonawanda, Amherst, and Clarence are divided in my proposal. But, they would still be well represented in sensible districts.

